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**SF 259** – School Board Director Vacancies (LSB1719SV)  
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Fiscal Note Version – New

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**Description**

**Senate File 259** requires a school board to publish notice of intent to fill a vacancy on the school board by appointment. The Bill specifies that the electors of the school district have the right to file a petition requiring that the vacancy be filled by a special election.

**Background**

The Bill maintains current law for the filling of a vacancy that occurs not later than 45 days before a regular school election. The bill also maintains current law requiring that the school board fill all other vacancies occurring among the officers and members of the school board by appointment. The petition for a special election must be signed by at least 100 eligible electors or eligible electors equaling at least 30 percent of the number of voters at the preceding regular school election, whichever is greater.

**Assumptions**

Assumptions for the estimate include:

- The Bill will create a minimum of 48 opportunities annually across the state for electors to file a petition to have a school board vacancy filled by a special election.
- Half of the 48 opportunities annually will result in a special election.
- Each special election will cost between \$2,500 and \$10,000.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact to the State General Fund.

The estimated total cost to local school districts in Iowa is an increase of between \$60,000 and \$240,000 per year.

**Sources**

Iowa Association of School Boards  
Office of the Polk County Auditor

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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February 20, 2015

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to **Joint Rule 17** and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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